

Appln. No.: 10/066,138
Amdt. dated October 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, the above-identified patent application has been amended to place it in form for allowance.

Allowance of claims 2-10, 13-20, and 22-29 is noted, along with allowability of the subject matter of claim 12 as previously presented.

In the Office Action of August 25, 2004, claim 11 was rejected once again under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Frey U.S. Patent No. 118,228, which discloses a side arm holster. A narrow metal plate bent upon itself forms a clasp that is fastened to a back side of the holster. The Examiner takes the position that the Frey clasp is a carrier for an article such as a holster.

Claim 11 has now been amended to recite that the carrier includes a body having a back member, a pair of sides, and a lower end wall, and that the back member, sides, and lower end wall cooperatively define a space for receiving an article. Claim 11 thus clearly differentiates the carrier defined by claim 11 from the carrier for a holster disclosed by Frey, which includes, as its back member, only a narrow downwardly extending arm of a bent metal plate that can be attached to the back of a

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holster. Frey thus fails to suggest a body having a back member, a pair of sides, and a lower end wall cooperatively defining a space for receiving an article as recited in claim 11. In particular, claim 11 requires a receptacle to be included in the back member of such a body, while the clasp disclosed by Frey discloses a receptacle or slot (f) that is made through only the fixed end of the clasp, not through the back member of a body defined as having a pair of sides and a lower end wall.

Claim 11 is amended also to state that the arm has an upper end, "said upper end being attached to and integral with said body;", further distinguishing the invention of claim 11 from the disclosure of the Frey reference, in which the disclosed clasp is a separate element and must be fastened to the back of a holster or scabbard.

In view of those amendments of claim 11, it is submitted that claim 11 should be allowed, and that claim 12, dependent from claim 11, should also now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that claims 2-20 and 22-29, all of the claims remaining in the application, are now in form for allowance. Accordingly,

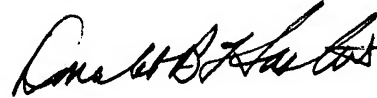
Appln. No.: 10/066,138

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the Examiner is requested to reexamine the application, to allow all of the remaining claims, and to pass the application on promptly to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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